

May 26, 2010

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

Though the 2010 legislative session may be over, I'm still hard at work on your behalf. There are a number of work groups, projects and other activities which will occupy my time over the next several months. I'd like to share with you an update on some of the things I do when I'm not in Olympia.

Keeping offenders away from children

I've drafted a bill with help from the city of Fircrest to prevent sex offenders and kidnappers from obtaining the names and addresses of children who sign up for youth sports programs. There's a loophole in the current law which allows the names and addresses of these minors to be divulged, and it's our responsibility to close it before someone gets hurt.



Making Fircrest a safer place to live

Another issue on which I'm working with the city of Fircrest has to do with a particularly dangerous local watering hole. There's a restaurant/bar in Fircrest which is considered so much of a risk by police that when they get a call to respond to a fight, two patrol units are dispatched so one can deal with the situation and the other can watch their back.

Fircrest would like to shut down this establishment because of its track record of being a public safety risk. I've scheduled a meeting with the state Attorney General, the city of Fircrest and a representative from the state Liquor Control Board because the city would like the bar's temporary liquor license revoked. The decision to approve or deny a permanent liquor license for the restaurant will be made very soon, and our meeting will take place shortly after that to decide how best to move forward.

A possible solution for Steilacoom

Since before the city even existed, there has been a rather large gulch running across the landscape where Steilacoom now sits. Many decades ago, they built bridges across the gulch to get from one side of town to the other. In the late 40's, the residents installed a small, 30-inch diameter steel pipe at the bottom of the gulch to allow the stream to drain, and then filled the entire gulch with about 50 feet of sand and gravel.

Since the 60-year-old pipe is at a fairly low angle, when the tide comes in it flows up into the pipe. And since salt water and steel



don't mix well, over time the pipe has finally collapsed. That's led to a backup of the stream and eventually a washout of part of nearby Martin Street. A number of ideas have surfaced on how to rectify the problem.

Since the state Department of Fish and Wildlife has declared the stream to be a salmon-bearing waterway, there are certain things which must take place. For example, the DFW would like a 16-foot diameter pipe to replace the 30-inch pipe which failed. City officials have noted that in order to do that, they'd have to haul out thousands of cubic yards of dirt and gravel, which is in their budget range but highly complicated since there's really no place to put the dirt temporarily. It was suggested they could put it in a tidal flats area; however the Army Corps of Engineers has rejected that idea due to its potential impact on the surrounding habitat.

Last week, I put together a meeting between the three parties involved to find a solution to the problem (the Corps wasn't able to attend). A new suggestion came about because of this meeting that there was a company in Washington with the equipment to bore a hole through the fill to install a 12-foot diameter pipe without removing the dirt and gravel fill. City officials are going to petition DFW to see if they would allow for a 12-foot pipe instead of a 16 foot pipe (remember the original pipe was just 30 inches). If so, the Corps of Engineers wouldn't even need to be part of the process and the city could accomplish the task for less cost than originally figured.

I was very pleased that a potential solution came from the meeting which nobody had been considering and I'm looking forward to continuing work on this issue.

Permanent power for Anderson Island



As you know, Anderson Island has been receiving power from a temporary underwater electrical cable since it failed in 2009. I've received word that the permanent cable will be completed, moved on-site and ready to be installed by this summer. The electrical co-op decided that even though the island only required a 12 kilovolt cable (12,000 volts), they were going to install a 25 kilovolt cable with fiber optics and thicker insulation instead... a smart move considering future population increases on the island.

While it will cost a little more for the larger cable, the capacity is more than double the electrical capacity of the original cable and will bring high-speed internet access to island residents for the first time. Plus, the thicker insulation on the larger cable will theoretically help it last longer than the smaller cable.

If the process continues the way it's going now, it looks like permitting for the new cable installation will be approved by August, which will give workers plenty of time to get everything running smoothly before winter. Part of this success can be attributed to the meeting I held last

session in Olympia where the major players all came together to begin discussing strategy and ways to improve the system for the future.

Work group begins to study bail industry

I was recently appointed to the Bail Work Group created by <u>Senate Bill 6673</u>. **Our first meeting is scheduled for June 1st.** You may remember that a number of my bills having to do with bail reform were killed during the 2010 session because the chair of the Senate rolled them into this work group. The other three scheduled meetings are July 6th, September 8th, and October 5th.

I'm very much looking forward to meeting with this work group and will likely sponsor bills again next session to help reform Washington's bail bond industry.

Cleaning up Lake Waughop

This week, I sent a letter to the Pierce
County Health Department asking why they
haven't closed public access to Lake
Waughop, which has been found to
contain over 200 times the
concentration of microcystin (a potent
cyanobacteria toxin that has been linked
with causing liver tumors) that warrants
designation as a public health hazard.



A separate letter to the <u>Suburban Times</u>

stated that "It is unconscionable that the City of Lakewood, Pierce County and the State of Washington allow this public health hazard condition to exist year after year in popular, highly used Fort Steilacoom Park without taking any action to address this serious matter."

There is only about a quarter-mile separating Lake Waughop from Lake Louise. Since the water table runs under both lakes, the potential for ground contamination which could spread to all the lakes in the region is very high.

In my letter to Pierce County, I point out that Lake Waughop is a state-owned lake, leased to the county and maintained by the City of Lakewood. As you can see from the picture, **this lake is in serious trouble and needs to be deemed a health hazard so appropriate action can be taken to address the problem.** I'll keep you apprised of the situation as it develops this summer.

In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.

You can always find information online by visiting my website at
www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell.

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse**Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428.



- Legislative E-mail address: <u>carrell.mike@leg.wa.gov</u>
- Home E-mail address: mcarrell@hotmail.com

Sincerely,

Mike Carrell

28th District State Senator